

## Stan Wilson Responds to the Arkansas Travelers Team



The Arkansas Crisis Response Team is always ready to step up to the plate to respond to events in all kinds of settings. Such was the case when a minor league baseball coach for the Tulsa Drillers was struck and killed by a foul ball at Dickey-Stephens Field during an Arkansas Travelers home game recently.

The event made national news as a tragic and very rare event. The Drillers' coach was transported to one of the Baptist Health Hospitals where he was pronounced dead shortly after arriving.

Early the next morning, I received a call from Roy Lipschin, the manager of the E.A.P. for the Los Angeles Angels, the Major League Team that owns the Travelers. He wanted to know what kind of immediate intervention might be available for the Travs, whose dugout was right behind where the coach was struck. I offered the Arkansas Crisis Response Team and explained our work to him. He had heard of the NOVA model, and asked that I and the team chaplain meet with the Travs in their locker room as soon as possible.

With just two hours notice I met with them as they had to decide whether or not to play the game that night. I led the team in a two hour GCI, and met

with players and coaches afterwards for one-on-ones. Due to a quirk in scheduling, two days later the Drillers would return to town to play again. I was called upon to be available for players if needed for one-on-ones on that day.

Subsequent conversations with Roy Lipschin may lead to Major League Baseball forming its own crisis response team, and we in Arkansas are expected to have a role with Major League Baseball when that happens. The Los Angeles Angels are also expected to make some contribution to the Arkansas Crisis Response Team to help support our mission in Arkansas. I am pleased that everyone appreciated our response efforts.